

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW

Applicant wishes to express his gratitude for the courtesies extended to the Applicant's undersigned representative during the personal interview conducted January 25, 2005. During the interview, the asserted citations, the state of the art, and the rejections of the claims were discussed. In particular, it was agreed that a new search was necessary to support the current rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 and that a non-final Office Action would be issued in response to the present Amendment. Also, the claim amendments to further define the claimed subject matter substantially in accordance with these presented in the present Amendment were discussed.

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-20, 23, and 24 are pending. Claims 1, 7, 11, 12, 16, 20, 23, and 24 are the independent claims.

Claims 21, 22, 25, and 25 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-3, 7-9, 11-14, 16-20, 23, and 24 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-20 and 23-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over International Patent Application WO 98/21713 (Leville et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,137,379 (Ukai et al.). Claims 12-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for failing to define a concrete useful and tangible result. All rejections are respectfully traversed.

However, at least for the reasons discussed during the interview conducted January 25, 2005, Applicant respectfully submits that neither Leville et al. nor Ukai et al., either alone or in combination (assuming arguendo that these documents may properly be combined) teaches or suggests all of the features of independent claims 1, 7, 11, 12, 16, 20, 23, and 24.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are respectfully requested.

Regarding the rejection of claims 12-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 101, independent claim 12 recites a computer-readable storage medium which is a concrete and tangible "product" recognized by the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP) § 2106 as statutory subject matter. Also, the MPEP also instructs that when computer related processes, as is the case with claims 12-19, are limited to a practical application in a technological art, such processes are

statutory subject matter. Claims 12-19 recite processes which allow a purchaser to purchase goods through a network. This is a practical application. Thus, for this additional reason, claims 12-19 recite statutory subject matter.

Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101 are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the independent claims patentably define the present invention over the citations of record. Further, the dependent claims should also be allowable for the same reasons as their respective base claims and further due to the additional features that they recite. Separate and individual consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that the present Amendment is responsive to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Official Action. However, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to such matters.

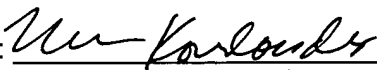
There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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